



P.R.I.D.E.

February 2001
Volume 2
Issue 1

Positively Representing Identities of Diversity in Erie

*It's our anniversary!!
We're #1 (year old that is)*

Human Relations Commission adds sexual orientation

By Michael Mahler

Approximately 60 to 70 people attended a meeting of the Erie County Human Relations Commission (HRC) on Monday, January 29. Because of some technical legal issues, the ordinance establishing the HRC is being rewritten.

The HRC hears all complaints of discrimination in Erie County in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations. Currently, discrimination issues regarding sexual orientation are not covered at any level due to the way the ordinance is written. Although there is no similar protection at the federal or state level, there are 5 areas in Pennsylvania that do have laws covering preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation: Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Lancaster and York. The Erie County HRC is seeking to use the York ordinance as a model.

The current HRC commissioners and advisory board unanimously approved a draft of the ordinance that included sexual orientation. An earlier draft ordinance by the County Council and executive's solicitors had deleted York's "sexual orientation" language.

In the York Ordinance, "Sexual orientation" is defined as "means male or female heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or any other gender identity, by practice or as perceived by others."

Several people, from different organizations spoke in favor of including sexual orientation. They included Dr. Bob Cogan, the representative for the Northwest PA. Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union; Larry Sawdy, who presented a resolution passed by the Social Action Committee of Temple Anshe Hesed; Sr. Dorothy Stoner and Sr. Mary Louise St. John of Mount St. Benedict; Maureen Koseff, head of the Erie/Crawford chapter of PFLAG; Heather Malobisky, coeditor of Pride News; and several other members of the community, both gay and straight. There was no one present who opposed the change to the ordinance.

The revisions now go to the Erie County Council which will vote on adopting the ordinance as recommended by ECHRC, and the Council may reject it or amend it. There will be a first reading. The proposed changes will be read at a Council meeting which occur either the first or third Tuesday of the month. It is possible that the ordinance may come up in the month of February.

The final vote would happen on a subsequent Thursday. The HRC commissioners stressed that it was vital that supportive people from the community be on hand to speak for inclusion of "sexual orientation." Although there were no speakers opposed to including sexual orientation at the January 29 meeting, there may very well be such

people at subsequent meetings.

Want to help? The most important way we you can help get this legislation passed is to be at the meetings where it will be discussed and voted on! People are also strongly encouraged to write letters to their County Council representative, in addition to attending the meeting. You write to your County Council Representative at:

{Name}
Erie County Courthouse
140 W 6th Sixth St.
Erie PA 16501

The letter correspondence can be as simple as a postcard saying that you expect your representative to vote for the version of the Human Relations Commission ordinance that includes sexual orientation. See page 10 for who to write to and help the Council pass this ordinance!

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**If Someone Leads
Others Will Follow**



Like to strut your stuff on stage?

The Roadhouse Theatre announces auditions for its upcoming production of *Corpus Christi* by Terrance McNally. *Corpus Christi* is a modern telling of the Jesus story set in Corpus Christi, Texas and features a cast of 13 men. Auditions will be on March 5th and 6th at the Roadhouse Theatre, 145 w 11th St., at 7:00. Everyone will be asked to read from the script.

For more information call (814)456-5656.

The Erie Playhouse announces auditions for its upcoming musical *110 In The Shade*. The musical is based on the Richard N. Nash play *The Rainmaker*. Auditions will be held February 5th and 6th at the Playhouse Rehearsal Hall on 1511 state street. Bring sheet music in a comfortable key.

For more information you can contact the Playhouse at (814) 454-2852.

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Tret Fure will be performing a series of concerts locally where you can see her on:

- 2/ 8 - Cleveland, OH
The Beachland Ballroom
- 2/ 10-11 Buffalo, NY
The Lavender Door,
- 2/ 13 - Lewiston, PA
Bucknell University
- 3/6 - Ann Arbor, MI - The Ark
- 4/27- Chester, NY
Bodles Opera House
- 4/29- Bridgeport, CT-Acoustic Cafe
- 5/24- Northampton, MA
The Iron Horse
- 7/28- Ithaca, NY
The Ithaca Women's Festival

Tret Fure releases new CD *Back Home*, while on tour near by

Tret Fure has been recording music since 1970, with several albums under her belt and will be releasing her new acoustic CD, *Back Home*, on February 1, 2001. A contemporary singer, songwriter and guitarist, her work includes collaborations with Chris Williamson and Spencer Davis.

Fure's three acclaimed solo releases include *Terminal Hold*, *Edges of the Heart* and *Time Turns the Moon*. Each collection spotlights Fure's gift for creating lyrical and musical vignettes. Whether it be her signature disarming piano ballad, "That Side of the Moon," or the dignified plight of the farmers in "Against the Grain," Fure's words transform inaccessible and complex emotions into that which listeners can viscerally touch. Known for her stellar production, Fure's sound resonates long after the strings and synthesizers fade.

This new millennium is an exciting time for Fure. She will be releasing a solo acoustic record early in 2001, and will spend this year touring the country raising funds for the disc's production. Long-time and newfound fans will delight in hearing never before performed songs as well as standard Fure favorites.

Take a look at her website for great information including concert dates, recipes, poetry, sketches and more at: www.tretfure.com

P.R.I.D.E.

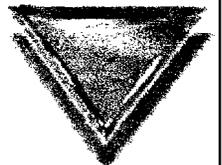
Mission Statement:

P.R.I.D.E. is a nonprofit communiqué aimed at informing and entertaining the gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and ally community, we realize that we are limited to what we know. If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions, send them our way. You can contact us by pager at: (814) 461-3102 or Email us at pridenews@hotmail.com. Submissions are gladly accepted but we ask that you contact us first for writing guidelines. When sending submissions please include your name, Email address, and phone number for contact. Anonymous submissions will not be printed. Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the P.R.I.D.E. Staff. We will not publish or reproduce any submissions that include the context of anger or discrimination against sexual orientation, gender, race, spirituality, or physical ability. We do not support the exploitation of minors. Subscriptions are available for \$15.00 per year. Check or money orders can be made out to P.R.I.D.E. and mailed to P.R.I.D.E. Subscriptions, 3882 Hereford Road, Erie, PA 16510-2457.

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Positively Representing Identities of Diversity in Erie



H e A r T b r E a k a t H o m e

By Gary N. Snyder

For the purpose of personal safety, the following article is presented for everyone to learn from, become aware, and keep them safe. In respect of the individual that this article is about, we have decided to rename the individuals discussed herein.

Just as the holidays were getting to run into full swing early last December, disturbing news spread around the community. A hate crime had been committed just outside The Village Supper Club on a gay male while leaving the establishment.

I was unaware of this event even taking place if it had not been for my friend Vance being so open in explaining his pain and discomfort as I approached on a Friday night at The Zone, to give them the usual 'hello' hug. I stood in disbelief as I listened to his story.

It was midweek, not the usual weekend night for going out, and he had decided to have a drink and relax. While sitting at the main bar in the Village, three men of middle eastern descent approached him in conversation. My friend talked to them but briefly for they were not even acquaintances.

After a small period of time had passed, the three men appeared to have left for the

night. My friend decided to eventually leave as well. As he left the building and walked away the three men he had talked to earlier came at him with pipes and proceeded to beat him physically.

My heart stood still as he recounted the story of how they meant to brutally inflict harm on him. He fought to get away from them and ran for his life, fearing the worst. I could tell that he was still shaken up by the incident from the way that he stopped to think about what he had to say. The bruises both physical and mental were all too fresh. It had just been two days ago that he became a victim of a hate crime.

This story seems old and familiar to me. Years before I was a witness to a hate crime first hand in high school. My best friend Rob was dragged down to ground and beaten by another male teen. I stood and watched in shock as this person verbally abused, punched, and kicked my friend. I felt helpless and ill at ease. In this fight, the other teen had a friend who was standing by watching as well. Being a nonviolent person and utterly beside myself, I choose not to do anything at all but watch.

That was a long, hard day. Once we arrived at Rob's house, he let his guard down and let his feelings come through. To this

day I will always be haunted by this one moment. With tears streaming down his face, he looked at me asked: "Why me? What did I do to deserve this?" And sadly, I had no answer to give. I felt ashamed that I did nothing to help him; that I did nothing to come to his aid. I did not help stop the brief hell Rob endured because one person choose to close himself off to love and understanding, and instead give into hate.

When I found out that Vance had gone through the same thing, I realized that this time I had a voice and I choose to use it. I will not let this go quietly into the night. The new ordinance in our cover story is the beginning of help for our self-esteem and equality. If we felt safe to live our lives the way we choose, then maybe we would stand up to hatred in any form at any time no matter where it comes from or when it strikes out. Then with courage we would all report the times that people lack the understanding of how we live our lives.

For Vance and my best friend Rob in high school, you bet I will be at the meeting to make a change in how justice is served for not only myself, but for my family as well. Join us at the Council meeting and help provide testimony that speaks true of how we have been abused in the past but never again!

Lifetime for Women examines "What Makes A Family"

By Rita L. Kilbane

Recently we have seen the emergence of gay and lesbian characters in film and on television. Showtime networks has given us *Queer as Folk*, *Common Ground*, HBO debuted *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, and NBC has flourished with *Will and Grace*.

Lifetime, television for women, is the newest contender in the race to bring gay and lesbian issues to the small screen. *What Makes A Family* deals with the controversial ideal of lesbian parenting.

Brooke Shields and Cherry Jones portray a lesbian couple who wish to parent a child. The artificial insemination and pregnancy go well. However, it is discovered that Sandy the biological mother, played by Cherry Jones, has systemic lupus and will not survive to raise the child.

Based on the real story of Janine Radcliffe, her partner Joan and their daughter Kristen, the film dramatizes Janine's attempt to raise the child in the absence of her biological mother.

Many could not visualize Brooke Shields as Janine simply because she has the reputation of being a glamour girl and incapable of embracing such a role. However, Shields embraces the challenge proving that she is quite capable. Since, Cherry Jones is an out lesbian actor there was no surprise that she would take on the role. The chemistry of the two artists is very evident in tender moments. Jones' range as a performance is put to the test in dramatic scenes of weakness and ultimately in her death, without any effort she triumphs.

Sandy's parents portrayed by Al Waxman and Anne Meara provide the opposition.

Upon Sandy's death Janine attempts to adopt Heather. However, since she has no biological ties to the child, the grandparents insist that they raise her.

Hence Janine is forced to take legal action and consults an attorney played by Whoopi Goldberg.

This film examines a very prominent issue in our community. Should we have the right to parent a child? Indubitably. If we are capable of loving a child and have the desire to do so. *What Makes A Family* brings this ideal to light.

The prospect of equal rights is always in our agenda. Artists involved in this film including producers Whoopi Goldberg & Barbara Streisand obviously support our struggle. Perhaps viewing this film on a commercial network will enlighten the populace.

Calendar of Upcoming Local Events

*By Michael Mahler of
www.eriegaynews.com*

Feb 7-"Always Our Children" meets (Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Call (814) 456-2091 for more info.

Feb 8-Safer Sex Cabaret Bruno's Café, Penn State Behrend, Erie PA NOTE NEW LOCATION! 7 PM. Annual night of fun, lube and info presented by Trigon, Penn State Behrend's student GLBT group. Please note that there is a new location this year as it has been so popular that the previous venue couldn't comfortably accommodate everyone. For more info about this event, email cabaret@area-23.com or contact Trigon at (814) 898-6030 or trigonpsu@hotmail.com.

Feb 10-Menspace meets For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Feb 10-Womynspace: Valentine Dance (South Shore In, North East PA) Womynspace of Erie in association with South Shore Inn presents a Valentine Dance for women only on Saturday, February 10, 2001 from 8-12 PM at South Shore Inn Ballroom, Rte 89, North East, PA. BYOB, snacks. Tickets are \$5. Lodging available through South Shore Inn. For more info, email tunger@toolcity.net or call (814) 725-5522.

Feb 10-"Red Party" Wear something red and show everyone else how cupid's arrow is getting you to meet your love. The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA For more info, call (814) 459-1711.

Feb 12-PFLAG Erie/Crawford Meets PFLAG-ERIE/CRAWFORD: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets the second Monday each month from 7pm-9pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. For more information call Maureen (814)-898-8341, or send an email to pflageriecrawfd@aol.com or write to

PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details.

Feb 14-"Dark Angel Affair" The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA The highly anticipated return of the 18 and over event! Erie's MSM Outreach Project will present "Dark Angel Affair" from 7 PM until ? at the Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA. Performances and entertainment will be provided by several artists including Erie's own Miss Connie, not to mention the welcome back return from their benefit performance in Cleveland at MJ's Place, Miss Taylor Morgan, and Miss Veronica Beaujolais. For more info, email Thomas Lee at aidsoutreach@webtv.net

Feb 17-2 Girls Alone: 1000 French, Erie PA 2 Girls Alone perform at 1000 French in Erie, PA on Saturday, February 17, 2001 from 8pm til 11pm. Reservations recommended. For reservations, call 814-454-6896. More information, email twogirlsalone@att.net.

Mar 8-"Always Our Children" meets (Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Call (814) 456-2091 for more info.

Mar 10-Menspace meets For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Mar 12-PFLAG Erie/Crawford Meets PFLAG-ERIE/CRAWFORD: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets second Monday each month, 7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA.. Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflageriecrawfd@aol.com or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details.

Mar 14-"Tea" (Benefit Performance) (Pittsburgh PA) Velina Hasu Houston's "Tea" takes center stage on Wednesday, March 14, 2001, at the new O'Reilly Theater in Pittsburgh's cultural district as the Pittsburgh Public Theater's annual benefit for the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. Tickets are on sale by calling 412-242-2500, extension 115. The

tasteful evening begins with a pre-performance party at 6 p.m., catered by some of Pittsburgh's finest chefs, with the theatrical performance at eight o'clock (see below for production description), followed by a coffee and dessert reception. VIP tickets cost \$150 per person and include preferred seating, recognition in the program book, and five raffle tickets for prizes including a trip, furniture, and artwork. General admission tickets are \$75 per person. Last year's benefit sold out and raised \$110,000 to support client services and prevention activities in southwestern Pennsylvania through the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF). This 15th annual event is the nation's longest-running theater benefit for AIDS. PATF is the region's largest AIDS service organization. It offers direct client services in the form of case management, outreach to homeless clients, a buddy program, food pantry, legal assistance, and emergency funding, among other services. Prevention activities at PATF include free and anonymous HIV counseling and testing, outreach, peer education, risk reduction groups, and educational programs in the community. For more information, contact the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force at 412-242-2500, or visit our Web site at www.patf.org.

Mar 15-2 Girls Alone: Aroma's Coffeehouse, 2174 W 8th St, Erie PA 2 Girls Alone perform at Aroma's Coffeehouse, 2174 West 8th Street in Erie, PA, on Thursday March 15, 2001 from 7pm til 9pm. For more information, email twogirlsalone@att.net.

Mar 17-10% Network meets: Potluck Dinner and Movie Night (Jamestown NY) Unitarian Church in Jamestown. Bring a dish to pass. We will watch a video after dinner. Contact John at (716) 484-7285 or otto@madbbs.com for details or with questions.

Mar 19-Suzanne Westenhoefer Concert (Antonian Hall, Carlow College (Oakland), Pittsburgh, PA) Triangle Productions, 5368 Sardis Rd. Murrysville, Pa 15668 (412) 795-5141. Triangleconcert@aol.com. Sunday, March 18th @ 7 PM . Antonian Hall @ Carlow College in Oakland . Tickets are

available at three levels: (1) General admission for \$20 in advance \$23 @ door. (2) Reserved priority Seating for \$50. (3) Students with ID that is available at the door only for \$10. Tickets are available at: A Pleasant Present 2301 Murray Ave. in Squirrel Hill, St Elmo's 2206 E Carson St on the South Side. By mail: 5368 Sardis Rd. Murrysville, Pa. 15668, make checks payable to Cindy Klink. The hall is handicapped accessible. If requested the concert will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. The sign interpreter requested that anyone requiring her services contact Cindy Klink by March 15th. If anyone you know cannot afford a ticket have them contact Cindy, she wants to make this concert accessible to everyone. Information about Suzanne Westenhoefer can be found at: www.SuzanneWestenhoefer.com. If you are interested in working on the concert or have any questions or require information, please feel free to contact Cindy Klink at TriangleConcert@aol.com or 412-795-5141.

Mar 23-Presentation: Loren Cameron Reed Union Building, Room 117 (Main Lecture Hall, Penn State Behrend, Erie PA) Loren Cameron, female to male transsexual author of "Body Alchemy" will speak in room 117 (main lecture hall) at Reed Union Building at Penn State Behrend. For more info, contact Trigon at (814) 898-6030 or trigonpsu@hotmail.com

Recurring Events

Play: Kissing the Witch (Hallwalls Black 'n Blue Theatre, Tri Main Center, 2495 Main St Ste 425, Buffalo NY) Hag Theatre presents Kissing the Witch by Emma Donoghue. Directed by Margaret Smith. February 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM, Sundays at 4 PM. Featuring Cyd Cox, Jessica Rasp, Kate Elliott, Daniel Horrigan at Hallwalls Black 'n Blue Theatre, Tri Main Center, 2495 Main Street, Suite 425, Buffalo, NY. Parking and Entrance on Halbert. Reservations: (716) 879-0935. Tickets: \$14 and \$12

Kissing the Witch, a play adapted by Emma Donoghue from her sequence of stories by the same name, is a play for four actors. Based on traditional European fairy tales Beauty and the Beast, the Sleeping Beauty,

Donkey Skin, the Goose Girl, and the Little Mermaid, it focuses on women's roles and relationships and particularly the ambiguous image of the witch. The play offers magic as a metaphor for transformation and dramatizes storytelling as an intimate exchange. The most interesting thing about the play is Emma Donoghue's take on witches, all of whom are women, who wield the power of wisdom. *Kissing the Witch* received its world premiere at the Magic Theatre in June 2000. Born in Dublin, Ireland in 1969, Emma Donoghue studied English and French at the University College of Dublin, before moving to Cambridge where she earned her Ph.D. on 18th century fiction. Since 1993 she has been a full time writer and her novels of life in modern Dublin include *Stir Fry* (1994) and *Hood* (1995). *Hood* won the 1997 American Library Association Book Award for best Gay/Lesbian fiction. Donoghue's first book was the ground-breaking history *Passions Between Women: British Lesbian Culture 1668-1801*, which she followed up in 1997 with an anthology of four centuries of women's love poems, *Poems Between Women*.

Groups

10% Network (Jamestown NY social group) Usually meets third Saturdays. Contact John at (716) 484-7285 or otto@madbbs.com for more info.

"Always Our Children" First Wednesday at 7 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Call (814) 456-2091.

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) (Ecumenical gay/lesbian/bisexual Christian Group) 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7. Contact Sue or Julie at (814) 734-3959.

Chautauqua County Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority (PRYSM) (Chautauqua County, NY) Discussion and support for youth ages 14 to 20. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7-8:30 PM. Contact Bill Reese at (716) 488-1917 or email reesewh@interlattice.net.

Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. Write to 1903 W 8th St Ste 162, Erie PA

16505-4936, email eriesisters@yahoo.com or browse www.geocities.com/Wellesley1614 for more info.

HIV Counseling and Testing (Free) Erie County Department of Health, 606 W 2nd St, Erie PA. Mondays 12 to 3:30 PM, Thursdays 9:30 AM to 1 PM. For more info, call ECDH at (814) 451-6727. Other times can be arranged.

Identity GLBT student group at Edinboro University. Open to all (including non-members of Edinboro University community.) All meetings are at 7:30 PM in Hendricks Hall, Room 101. 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month is Support group for people coming out or questioning their sexual orientation. 2nd and 4th Thursdays is Social group. For more info, contact Amy Terrizzi at missrainbow@yahoo.com or Dan Burdick at (814) 732-2647.

Menspace (gay/bi men's social group) Usually 2nd Saturday at 7:30 PM at varying locations. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Parents Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Erie/Crawford Counties support group meets second Monday each month, 7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflagerieccrawfd@aol.com or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details. Note new email address!

Trigon GLBT Student group at Penn State Behrend. Open to all (including non-members of Behrend community.) Meets every Friday at noon in Multi-Cultural Center Suite in Reed Union Building For more info, email trigonpsu@hotmail.com or call (814) 898-6030.

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GAY.COM

Amazon.com Delivers Gay Studies Books of Interest

"Rainbow Rights: The Role of Lawyers and Courts in the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Movement"
by Patricia A. Cain

An excellent resource to consider alongside the recent political histories of the gay rights movement (such as John Malone's "21st Century Gay" and John d'Emilio, William Turner, and Urvashi Vaid's "Creating Change"), this authoritative history and critique offers a detailed examination of the legal advances made in gay civil rights in America over the past 70 years, the strategies used in court, and the alliances and shifts in public policy and opinion that have strengthened these advances. Equal attention, however, is given to *Bowers v. Hardwick*, Padula, and other disappointments, the better to help prepare civil rights attorneys for future battles in court. In her introduction, Patricia A. Cain tracks the meanings of the rainbow as a gay symbol, referring to Judy Grahn's research and of course to the Judy Garland song, but also quoting Gilbert Baker, the San Francisco creator of the rainbow flag, who admired the diversity of the gay community. "I mean to capture all these meanings in my title 'Rainbow Rights,'" explains Cain: I am looking for legal arguments that are transformative, that can bring us to that place over the rainbow where even bluebirds fly, and I am not the least bit interested in legal arguments that are not capable, in the end, of bringing us all there—black, white, brown, every color, male, female, able-bodied or not, rich or poor, English-speaking or not, gay, nongay, bisexual, and transgendered. The book is essential reading for law students, gay rights litigators, and activists. —Regina Marler

"Revolutionary Voices"
edited by Amy Sonnie

This groundbreaking, multicultural collection of stories by the queer and young should be required reading for every jaded adult—teachers, parents, politicians—and anyone who fears for the future of our country. In fact, 22-year-old editor Amy Sonnie should

run for Congress. Her introduction to this touching, funny, and sometimes sad anthology is smarter and more thoughtful than any political rhetoric we've heard lately. While the work is wildly diverse (one of my favorites involves a mother who bakes a cake to help her queer daughter celebrate Ellen DeGeneres's coming-out), all of it speaks to the isolation and fear of being queer and young. A boy lies awake at night practicing to be more masculine. An intersexed gay boy comes out to his high school. A butch girl tells of years of daily bashing. Fear, though, is not the overriding emotional tone of this collection. The contributors exhibit a belief in themselves, a well-placed youthful confidence that speaks as loudly as the most poignant writing. Their determination to survive and thrive despite a homophobic society comes through loud and clear. It's the perfect antidote to adult cynicism about youth. —Jack Connolly

"Finding Your Leading Man: How to Create Male-to-Male Intimacy and Make Your Relationship a Blockbuster"
by Jon P. Bloch

If Bette Davis is your standing date for Saturday night, here's the book for you, boyfriend. It's time to retire "All About Eve" and discover your own leading man. Spend a few hours cruising this cheerful, upbeat guide to finding lasting love with the man of your dreams. In "Finding Your Leading Man," Jon P. Bloch has identified 12 amusing and recognizable personality types of gay men, from the Hyper-Romantic (you send flowers to your ex on Valentine's Day—and he left you!) to the Perennial Closet Case (you have your prom photo prominently displayed on your desk). Offering practical advice for overcoming intimacy fears specific to these types, Bloch also makes suggestions about which types do best together. What happens, for instance, when a Shy Snob dates a Therapy Junkie? Can the Sexpot win over the Misfit? Even those who chafe at being categorized will find kernels of themselves here, as well as basic, sound relationship advice. A fab gift for searching singles or

thoughtful couples, this book would make a great party game, too. It sure beats Spin the Bottle. —Jack Connolly

"Outside the Badge"
by Mitchell Grobeson

A serial killer is loose on the streets of Los Angeles, targeting young male hustlers. Indifferent to crimes against gays, the police department has categorized the killings as NHI—No Humans Involved. No one gives a damn, except for a gay cop whose fellow officers consider him as expendable as the young men being tortured and murdered.

That some members of the LAPD could use a good spanking is no secret; allegations of abuse within and outside the department have been surfacing for years. In "Outside the Badge," former LAPD officer Mitchell Grobeson (who sued the department for discrimination—and won) takes actual events to weave a fictionalized account of a cop under siege—from the streets and from his own department. Grobeson

obviously knows his territory. Those with a cop fetish will enjoy his authentic voice and his attention to police procedure. And the unconventional cover image of him as a hunky bare-chested hustler will surely win him fans. But his gritty tale is not for the faint-hearted: the descriptions of the doomed hustlers—mostly runaways—are heartbreaking, and the torture scenes are cold and graphic. While this first-time author could have used a firm hand with editing (the attention to detail can get monotonous), this is clearly a story that needed to be told. —Jack Connolly

Check out our new Gay & Lesbian category page, where you can find a wide range of fiction and nonfiction titles that focus on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues and interests: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/browse/-/301889/ref=ad_b_gs_2

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Thoughts about Love

by *Deb Spilko*

In honor of Valentine's Day, this column is devoted to love and romance.

What's romantic for you? A few years ago Erie Gay News asked its readers to send in their ideas and received quite an interesting response. The column is divided into listings for men, women, and "everyone."

For Everyone How to meet

Obviously, if you're reading this you are familiar with the Internet to some degree. The most popular chat address in this area is gay.com People chat for a variety of reasons, finding a mate is just one of them.

EGN calendar has a maintained calendar of events going on in the community. Come out and mingle!

Books

Permanent Partners, by Betty Berzon PhD (Plume \$14.95), is written for the same-sex couple that wants to know how to build and keep a relationship that lasts.

Dating for Dummies, by Dr. Joy Browne (IDG \$19.99) advice from the non-homophobic radio talk show host. Aimed at straight couples, but plenty of "universal appeal."

The Couple's Comfort Book, by Jennifer Loudon (HarperCollins \$15).

1001 Ways to Be Romantic, by Gregory J.P. Godek (\$14.95) Written by the man known as "The Romance Coach," for a general readership.

Jewelry

Aurum Precious Metals and Jewelry, 487 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo NY (716) 886-1300

Rinaldi Jewelry, 2028 E 9th St, Cleveland OH (216) 566-0303

For Men

Romantic videos/DVD

If you can't find or order these at your local video store, check out <http://tla.video.com>

Alive and Kicking (1996)
Beautiful Thing (1996)
Bedrooms and Hallways (1998)
Broadway Damage (1999)
The Broken Hearts Club (2000)
Endless Pursuit (1999)
Erotic Couples—A Guide to Gay Intimacy (1997)
Green Plaid Shirt (1996)
The Journey of Jared Price (2000)
Leather Jacket Love Story (1997)
Making Love (1983)
Maurice (1987)

Reading

Guys Magazine "romantic, erotic stories" about men who love men. Sample copy \$5.95 from First Hand, PO Box 1314, Teaneck NJ 07666.

Alyson Books is possibly the best source for gay male romantic fiction. Check their online catalog at alyson.com

The Male Couple's Guide: Finding a Man, Making a Home, Building a Life, by Eric Marcus (HarperCollins \$17)



P.R.I.D.E.

Newsletter is currently printing with a run of approximately 425 issues each press thanks to your support and commitment.

Businesses, groups, event organizers, and organizations can get information on our advertising by leaving a message for the staff by sending an email to:

pridenews@hotmail.com
 and you can write to us at:
 3882 Hereford Road,
 Erie PA 16510-2457

For Women

Romantic Video/DVD

If you can't find these at the video store, check the comprehensive selection at <http://www.tlavideo.com>

All Over Me (1997)
Better Than Chocolate (1999)
Claire of the Moon (1992)
Costa Brava (1995)
Cynara, Poetry in Motion (1996)
Desert hearts (1985)
Go Fish (1994)
The Incredibly true Adventures of Two Girls in Love (1995)
Late Bloomers (1997)
Out of Season (1998)
Therese & Isabella (1968)
When Night is Falling (1994)

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out

InsightOutBooks.com is pleased to offer the "InsightOut Books Top 10 List" of LGBT literature.

INSIGHTOUT BOOKS FEBRUARY 2001 TOP 10 LIST

1. The World of Normal Boys
by K.M. Soehnlein
2. A Density of Souls
by Christopher Rice
3. The Night Listener
by Armistead Maupin
4. The Power Book
by Jeanette Winterson
5. Completely Queer: The Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia
by Steve Hogan
6. The Adonis Complex
by Harrison Pope
7. Uncle Mame
by Eric Myers
8. The Coming Storm
by Paul Russell
9. The XY Survival Guide
by Benjie Nycum
10. To Believe In Women: A History
by Lillian Faderman

Roadhouse's *Vieux Carre* introduces Erie to New Orleans

by Rita Kilbane

The tradition of breaking new ground in community theatre continues with the Roadhouse Theatre's production of *Vieux Carre* (The Old Quarter). Written by Tennessee Williams, *Vieux Carre* is a memory play based on the author's early experiences in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

The story revolves around the lives of inhabitants in a run down boarding house in the 1930s. Brian Altman portrays "The Writer," a young man recently arrived from St Louis. The drama of the show centers around his perceptions and experiences with the other boarders.

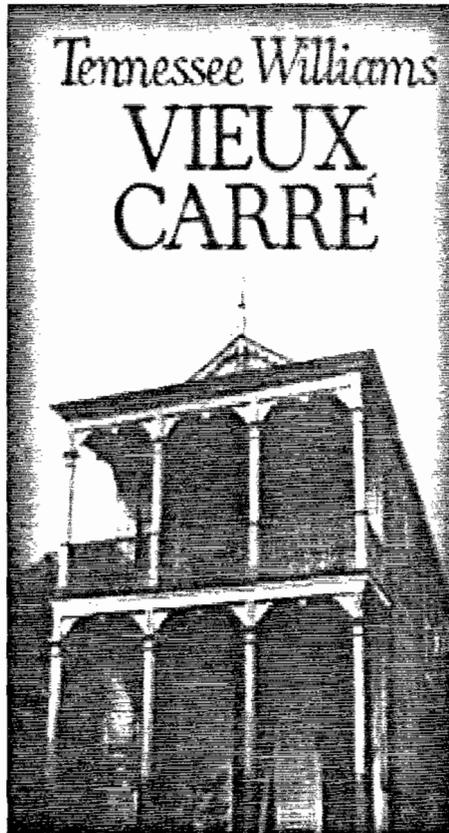
As "the Writer", Altman creates an intriguing character with dual purposes. He must objectively narrate the story and become a subjective player in the story as well. His transitions between "writer" and "player" are very well crafted. Altman's range as a performer is admirable.

"The Writer" encounters many unique characters in the Old Quarter. Ms. Sparks, portrayed by Althea Bodine, is a woman trapped in a hopeless relationship. In her first dramatic role, Bodine makes a respectable debut. Aaron Pacey accepts the challenge of creating a character who is callous and opinionated. Pacey executes the role of Tye McCool expertly.

Brad Harrington, as Nightingale, the painter of portraits, pursues sympathy and companionship. He is successful in earning the empathy of his audience. Cameo Harris and Sue Harrington provide lighthearted humor in their roles of Mary Maude and Miss Carrie. As the house mother, Mrs. Wire, Kim Mc again displays her range of ability.

The entire company including David McNeill, Rick DiBello and Jason Fried make *Vieux Carre* a theatrical event worth experiencing.

Most of the action occurs within the kitchen or in the many cubicles of the house. The set is stationary and directors Kim Mc and Scott McClelland make great use of the space in the theater incorporating theater exits and entrances in the stage directions. The sound executed by Christine Volk and



lighting created by McClelland provide their own unique dimensions to the drama.

This spring The Roadhouse Theatre will break new ground in community theater across the seas as they tour to Poland. The cast and crew has been invited by the Lublin-Erie Sister City Committee to engineer the first cultural exchange between the two cities. Theater is a universal language and the Roadhouse Theatre ensemble of *Vieux Carre* will embrace the roles of cultural ambassadors.

The Roadhouse has been supportive of gay and lesbian community, therefore the staff of PRIDE News would appreciate it if our readers showed their support for the theater as they attempt to raise funds for the journey. To help, contact Scott McClelland at the theater.

Vieux Carre will be presented January 19- February 24. Curtain rises on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

Case Management
Emergency Financial
Assistance includes
physician and dental care.

HOPWA and other
housing, and nutritional
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Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson,
Lawrence, McKean, Mercer,
Venango & Warren Counties

Northwest Alliance
15898 Route 322
Suite 1

Clarion PA 16412
nwparaa@penn.com
1-800-359-AIDS

Case Management

Northwest Alliance
1001 States Street
Suite #806

Renaissance Center
Erie PA 16501-1828
nwpaids@erie.net
1-800-400-AIDS

“A message of love for those who need it”

This is a love letter.

This is a love letter because you don't hear it often enough, especially during the holidays. This is a love letter because even though you don't believe it all the time, you belong in this world.

This is a love letter to every young lesbian who's been told she's not a real girl until she has sex with a man. This is a love letter to every boy who's been beaten for not being manly, and to every muscular gay guy who has looked on in terrified silence.

This is a love letter to the teenage drag queens who get kicked out of their houses and end up tricking on the streets. This is a love letter to all the gay kids who think about dying and sometimes succeed because the world doesn't prize their lives.

This is a love letter to the queer students who live courageously in the dorms, the ones who've told me the horror stories: the students whom certain teachers trash in class, the students on whom pranks are played and whose door decorations are ripped down, the students who risk bodily harm and the disdain of the homophobic, gender-policing world in order to claim their birthright as human beings.

This is a love letter to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans kids who are growing up in families or religions that don't recognize and appreciate the diversity of hu-

man life. This is a love letter to the LGBT adults like Mel White who persist, knocking gently and not-so-gently on the doors of their familial and spiritual homes, saying, “We know we have a place at this table, under this roof; we belong in this synagogue, this mosque, this church.

This is a love letter to butch lesbians and flaming gay men, a love letter for every moment of your life when you've braved living with integrity, looking the world in the eye. This is a love letter to dykes like Lea Delaria who walk with that special swagger, and to gay boys like Jack on “Will and Grace” who walk with the special swish.

This is a love letter to Brandon Teena, who lived his too-short life with reckless abandon because he didn't know his own value and possibility. This is a love letter to tell the female-to-male and male-to-female people out there that your life matters, that your survival means a richer and better world.

This is a love letter to the women and men, the drag queens and kings, who risked arrest at Stonewall in 1969 when they fought against police. This is a love letter to all those who frequented the small gay bars in Jackson; Miss. in Bend, Ore; in Des Moines, Iowa, who survived police raids, brutality and humiliation in order to find more of your own kind. This is a love letter to the butch

women and gay men raped by police over many long years of oppression.

This is a love letter to those on the front lines of gender and sexuality, especially trans people I know and cherish: Jayson, Gunner, and the Gender Puzzlers. I love your emotional, intellectual and physical selves. I love your shy and bold voices. I love the lines of your faces, your cheekbones. I love your eyes, full of fear and hope and honesty.

I love your mouths, above which hair might be cultivated or plucked. I love your necks, graceful and taut or solid and protected. I love your shoulders, thickened by testosterone or toned and thinned by training. I love your chests, the scars of mastectomies, the proud new breasts, the fine, gentle hearts that beat beneath.

I love your hands — the hands that some claim show your former gender assignment, the hands that work in factories and in hospitals, the hands that carry my UPS packages, the hands that hold chalk, the hands that hold babies. I love your pre-operative bodies, your post-operative bodies, your glorious and beautiful, diverse and marvelous bodies.

I love you, my dear queer family, for giving the world your many gifts: flexibility, understanding, complexity, beauty and courage. Stay alive. And stay proud.

By Anonymous



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23
DRIVE

Armistead Maupin's The Night Listener

Her thoughts. . . .

As a self-proclaimed couch potato and movie fanatic, I never had much of a desire to escape into the world of literature. I blame my partner, who "eats books," for my new found appreciation.

Recently I had the opportunity to enjoy Armistead Maupin's newest novel, The Night Listener. Like any respectable homosexual, I knew of his work and had briefly followed the PBS series, *Tales of the City*. However, I had never picked up one of his books.

As a playwright, my interest lies in people. If characters in a drama or work of fiction are not well developed, I quickly lose interest. I was pleased to discover that Maupin creates very intriguing and sincere individuals.

The Night Listener tells the tale of middle-aged Gabriel Noone who has just ended a long term relationship with a younger male. It also illustrates his unique friendship with a 13 year-old boy, named Pete, who is struggling with HIV and a history of molestation.

Initially, I believed that a story by and about a gay man would have no appeal to me. However, many of the issues Maupin addresses in this novel are universal. Noone, the author and radio personality, represents anyone who has experienced a loss or alienation.

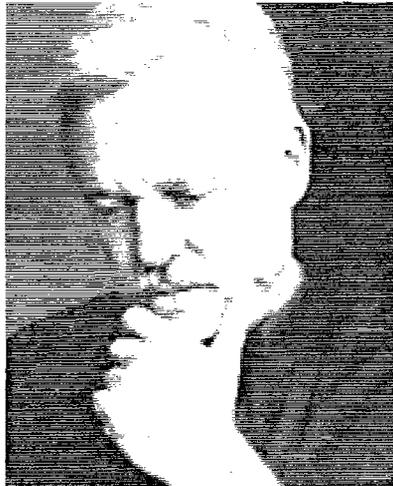
At that stage in life, one tends to gravitate to others for comfort and companionship. When Gabriel is asked to peruse a manuscript written by the boy, the two develop an intense father-son relationship via the telephone.

As the relationship becomes more involved, the audience begins to wonder if Pete is a real person or merely a figment of his adoptive mother's imagination. One suspects that he may even be one of Donna Lomax's personalities.

Often humans are misled by someone they perceive to be sincere. When the truth is revealed, it upsets the balance of existence.

Now, I am not one to let the "cat out of the bag". So I will just say that I thoroughly enjoyed the novel.

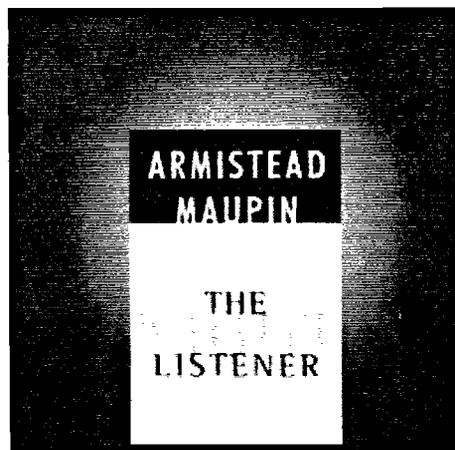
Rita



THE TRUTH IS ONLY HEARSAY

"Surprising and sophisticated ... a solid page turner ... a mystery studded with elegant twists and turns ... The reader is captivated and won't be able to get on with things until THE NIGHT LISTENER is wolfed down whole, like a midnight snack eaten standing up at the kitchen sink."

**-The New York Times
Book Review**



His thoughts. . . .

When a good friend of mine offered the chance to read Armistead Maupin's newest novel, The Night Listener, I chomped at the bit, as they say. I had seen his interview with Rosie O'Donnell earlier and decided to make an effort to remember to put in on my books to buy list.

I found Armistead intriguing and genuinely appealing as a personality during the interview and discussion of the book. Rosie had asked him if the plot and characters mirrored real people in his own life. He explained that the main character is similar to himself, but that all the characters he writes are based different aspects of people in his life.

Once I began to read the book, I found myself disagreeing. I truly became enraptured in the plot of Gabriel Noone and his journey through love with an ex who chooses to 'go find himself' and a young boy, reportedly his biggest fan.

I saw much of Armistead being written into his own novel. Gabriel Noone came across as a window through which I could view Armistead's thoughts and feelings about love, life, and faith in yourself. I related very much to Gabriel's sometimes tortuous thoughts on being single, lonely, and feeling loss. Yet he also experiences great development in understanding that who we are to others is just as important as who we are to ourselves.

I found the novel to be a real page turner myself. I spent time retelling the plot highlights to my mother, a reader herself of fiction at times. She was an excellent voice playing devil's advocate in trying to understand where Armistead was leading me, especially at the end. I agree with my cohort in review that it is best left up to you to come to your own conclusions about how real things appear to be versus how truly real they are in life.

Highly recommendable, The Night Listener is an excellent and insightful look at modern drama and 'gay' life that we may not necessarily think of while watching say *Will & Grace* these days. Enjoy the intrigue.

Gary

GLB HATE CRIMES INFORMATION WEBSITES:

Rainbow Query's Hate Crimes on the
'Net Site

[http://www.rainbowquery.com/categories/
Hate_Crimes.html](http://www.rainbowquery.com/categories/Hate_Crimes.html)

Matthew's Place (a permanent cyber-space
community dedicated to Matthew, spread-
ing awareness and need for federal hate
crimes legislation)

<http://matthewsplace.com/>

National Victim Center (GLB information
and hate crimes in general)

<http://www.nvc.org/infolink/info25.htm>

Hate Crimes Prevention Center (GLB
information and hate crimes in general)

<http://civilrights.org/lcef/hat.html>

Lambda GLBT Community Services (The
Gay & Lesbian National Victims' Assistance
Hotline, Anti-Violence Project, & the Gay/
Straight Prisoner Assistance Project are all
services of LAMBDA GLBT Community
Services, a non-profit org.)

http://lambda.org/avp_gen.htm

ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING GLB HATE CRIMES:

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
1734 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 332-6483

U.S. Department of Justice,
Community Relations Service
National HATE Crime Reporting
Hotline
(800) 347-HATE

Gay & Lesbian National Victims'
Assistance Hotline (915)562-GAYS
(for assistance and information even if
you choose not to call police)

Who is representing you on the Council?

Check below and write to
them today!

Joy Greco represents western parts of
Millcreek township.

Joe Giles represents Erie's east and west
Bayfront areas.

Fiore Leone represents SW Erie and
parts of Millcreek.

Mark Divecchio represents SE Erie and
parts of Millcreek.

James Terrill represents the Boroughs of
McKean and Wesleyville Boros, as well as
Franklin, Greene, Harborcreek, Lawrence
Park, McKean and Summit tTownships.

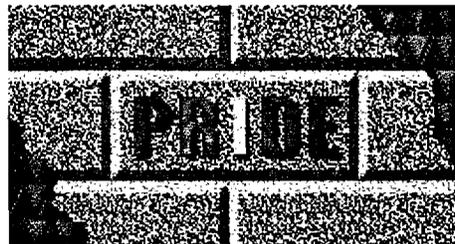
David Mitchell represents the Boroughs
of Corry, Elgin, Mill Village, Union City,
Waterford, Wattsburg and, Pparts of North-
east and Union City and the tTownships of
Amity, Concord, Greenfield, LeBoeuf,
Northeast, Union, Venango and parts of
Waterford and Wayne tTownships.

Carol Loll represents the bBoroughs of
Albion, Cranesville, Edinboro, Fairview,
Girard, Lake City, Platea and the Townships
of Conneaut, Elk Creek, Fairview, Girard,
Springfield and Washington.

If you don't know who your County
Council Representative is, either leave the
name off or call the Courthouse at 451-
6000.

For more info, contact Michael Mahler
at (814) 456-9833 or
info@eriegaynews.com

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Thank You!

2000 was a wonderful year.

I want to take a moment to express

my appreciation to all of you for

thinking of me for all of your real

estate needs-

Linda



Linda Foll Johnson, GRI, RRS
Associate Broker
814-864-3200
814-868-0498 x 325
email:lfjohnson@howardhanna.com



814-864-3200

P.R.I.D.E. Resource Directory

24 Hour Information & Referral

Erie Hotline (814)453-5656
<http://www.ncinter.net/~ejmet/hotline.html>
Hamot Health Center (814)877-6136
St.Vincent Health Center (814)452-5151

Bars and Restaurants

Sneakers (715)484-8816
100 W. Harrison ST., Jamestown NY
14701-6615 Open 2pm-2am 7 days/ week
Email: artemistoo@mindspring.com
Rascals (716)484-3220
701 N. Main St., Jamestown NY 14701-
5031 Open 3pm-2am 7 days/week
BayBreeze (814)835-0808
2727 W Eighth St., Erie PA 16505
Open 3pm-2am Monday-Saturday, 3pm-
9pm Sundays, Email: baybreeze@erie.net
Matthew's Trattoria (814)459-6458
153 E. 13th St., Erie, PA 16503
Open Monday-Friday 11am-2pm, Tuesday-
Saturday 5pm-Close. Contact for reserva-
tions and entertainment listing.
South Shore Inn (814)725-5522
1120 Freeport Rd (Route 98) North East,
PA 16428 Karaoke every Tuesday night
@ 7pm. Make you dinner reservations now.
Email: careleswhisper@landofillusion.com
The Village (814)452-0125
133 W. 18th St., Erie, PA 16501
Open 8pm-2am 7 days a week
The Zone Dance Club (814)459-1711
1711 State St., Erie, PA 16501
Contact for hours and special events.

Counseling

Virginia Ayres, Ph.D. (814)835-3829
Family Service
Jamestown NY Office (716)488-1971
Fredonia NY Office (716)679-3455
Gay and Lesbian National Hotline
(6pm-11pm Mon-Fri) 1-888-843-4564
Lake Erie Counseling Associates
(814)455-4009
Well Being Center (Deb Monohan)
(814)838-0123

Information Lines

Chataqua County NY (North)
(716)679-3560
Chataqua County NY (South)
(716)484-8434
Erie (814)456-9833

Religious Organizations

**BYKOTA Be Ye Kind One To An-
other** (Susan Laurie) Ecumenical.
Open to Christians of all denominations/
orientations. 734-3959
Temple Anshe Heses
(Reform Congregation)
930 Liberty St., Erie PA 16502
(814)454-2426
Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal)
134 W 7th St., Erie PA 16501
(814)452-3779
More Light Presbyterians
Evon Lloyd McJunkin evon@erie.net
Meetings are on certain Thurs. at 7:30
P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church 112
W 3rd St., Waterford PA. (Day)
(814)864-1920 Email: evon@erie.net
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Erie 7180 New Perry Highway
Erie, PA 16509 (814)864-9300
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Jamestown 1255 Prendergast Ave
Jamestown NY 14701-3144
(716)488-1902
"Always Our Children" For the
Catholic parents of GLBT children.
Supportive, but for parents only.
(814)456-2091

Social Organizations/Youth

10% Network (John)
Chataqua County, NY (716)484-7285
Burgh Bears Pittsburgh, PA
<http://www.burghbears.org>
or call the info line: (412)422-8850
Menspace in Erie (Michael)
(814)456-9833
Womynspace in Erie
tjunger@toolcity.net (814)456-9833

Student Organizations/Youth

Covenant House Teen Hotline
1-800-999-9999
Erie Gay Youth Website
<http://www.angelfire.com/pa3/ErieGayTeens>
National Runaway Switchboard
1-800-621-4000
**Chataqua County PRYSM: Pride &
Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority**
For more info, call Bill Reese (Coordina-
tor) at (716)488-1917 or check out the web
site at: <http://www.gaychataqua.org>
Mercyhurst College Alliance
Tim McNichol (814)454-7320
PennState Trigon Abby (814)898-6030
Teen Hotline (412)771-8336

Support Groups

Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group
(TV/TS/CD) Send mail to Erie Sisters,
1903 W 8th St., Suite 261, Erie PA 16505
or check out their website at:
www.geocities.com/0080/Wellesley/1614
GayAA (Bernie) (814)459-7262
Partners (LesBiGay group, Corry, PA)
(814)664-7090 (Luella)
Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
PFLAG-DuBois PA Karen/John Kressley
371-8962
PFLAG-Erie/Crawford Maureen Koseff,
PO Box 133, Haroborcreek, PA 16421
(814)898-8341 or you can send Email:
pflageriecrawfd@aol.com
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)
453-5656 (Erie Hotline)

HIV/AIDS Resources

AIDS Bereavement Support Group and
HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cath.
of St. Paul 452-3779 (Sue Kuebler)
AIDS Network Information HIV test-
ing at Health Department Monday Noon-
3:30, Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Evening hours by appt. only 451-6727

Website Resources

<http://www.gaychataqua.org>
<http://www.eriegaynews.com>

Is your Group/Organization Missing? Is there anything we should add?
Comments/Suggestions can be sent to:

P. R. I. D. E. 3882 Hereford Road Erie, PA 16510-2457
Email us: pridenews@hotmail.com or leave a message at: 461-3102